Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting a target transcript associated with influenza virus in a mammalian subject comprising delivering a composition comprising

i) an RNAi-inducing entity and

ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide to the respiratory system of a subject by introducing the composition into the vascular system of the subject;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA; wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to ~~a target~~ the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and wherein the siRNA or shRNA; and wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the solid organ is the lung.

40. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is administered by intravenous injection.

41. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is administered using a conventional fluid delivery technique.

42. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the RNAi-inducing entity comprises an siRNA.

43. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the RNAi-inducing entity comprises an

shRNA.

44. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the RNAi-inducing entity comprises an RNAi-inducing vector.

45. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the RNAi-inducing vector comprises a DNA vector.

46. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the RNAi-inducing vector comprises a viral vector.

47. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the RNAi-inducing vector comprises a lentiviral vector.

48. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the RNAi-inducing vector comprises a lentivirus.

49. (Previously presented) A method of treating influenza or a clinical condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of an influenza virus nucleoprotein (NP) transcript or excessive functional activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript comprising the step of delivering a composition comprising

i) an RNAi-inducing entity and

ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide

to a respiratory system solid organ or tissue of a subject at risk of or suffering from influenza or the clinical condition by introducing the composition into the vascular system of the subject;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA; wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length.

50-80. (Canceled)

81. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting expression of a target transcript of a respiratory virus in a mammalian subject comprising the step of administering to the subject a composition comprising:

(i) an RNAI-inducing entity targeted to the target transcript; and

(ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA; wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to a target transcript; and wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length.

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein administration of the composition inhibits expression of the target transcript in the lung.

83. (Original) The method of claim 81, wherein administration of the composition inhibits expression of the target transcript in at least one tissue or organ other than the lung, in addition to, or instead of, inhibiting the transcript in the lung.

84. (Currently amended) A method of treating influenza or a condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript of influenza virus or inappropriate or excessive expression or activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript, the method comprising steps of:

(a) providing a subject at risk of or suffering from a disease or condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of ~~a~~ the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript of influenza virus or inappropriate or excessive expression or activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and

(b) administering to the subject a composition comprising:

(i) an RNAi-inducing entity targeted to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and

(ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity is a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an

shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA; wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length.

85. (Original) The method of claim 84, wherein the composition is administered by inhalation or intranasally.

86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the composition is administered as an aerosol.

87. (Original) The method of claim 84, wherein the composition is administered intravenously.

88. (Original) The method of claim 87, wherein the composition is administered using a conventional intravenous administration technique.

89. (Original) The method of claim 84, wherein the delivery agent comprises a delivery enhancing moiety to enhance delivery to a cell of interest.

90. (Original) The method of claim 89, wherein the delivery-enhancing moiety comprises an antibody, antibody fragment, or ligand that specifically binds to a molecule expressed by the cell of interest.

91-97. (Canceled)

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein the RNAi-inducing entity comprises a modified nucleotide.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 84, wherein the RNAi-inducing entity comprises a modified nucleotide.

100. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting a target transcript associated with influenza virus in a mammalian subject comprising delivering a composition comprising

i) an RNAi-inducing entity and

ii) a delivery agent comprising at least one cationic peptide to the respiratory system of a subject by introducing the composition into the vascular system of the subject;

wherein the RNAi-inducing entity consists of a nucleic acid selected from an siRNA, an shRNA, and an RNAi-inducing vector whose presence within a cell results in production of an siRNA or shRNA; wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence comprises a sequence that is complementary to a target transcript; and wherein the siRNA or shRNA; and wherein the siRNA, shRNA or the siRNA or shRNA produced as a result of vector presence is at least 15 nucleotides in length.

101. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 38, 49, 81, 84, and 100[[101]], wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of an arginine-rich peptide, a histidine-rich peptide, and a lysine-rich peptide.

102. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 38, 49, 81, 84, and 100[[101]], wherein the at least one cationic peptide is selected from the group consisting of a polylysine, a polyarginine, a polyhistidine, and a lysine-histidine peptide.